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LB 305

or not a quarter-cent increase in the sales tax revenue would cover the costs of this program. Basically, when you add up all of the revenues and all of the costs, by the end of the five-year period in question we're short \$1.7 million. When we first made this proposal and the fiscal impact of it was before the revenue Forecasting Board made their revenue projections, and at that time that bottom right-hand number was positive, I think about \$200,000. When you take into account the revenue reductions because of the forecast it becomes negative \$1.7 million. This amendment would take out the \$600,000 per year for the community college growth rate in the aid formula and, thereby, would make that number in the far lower right-hand corner slightly positive. So, basically, it makes this proposal cash flow with a quarter-cent increase in sales tax. Now, I didn't spend a lot of time in the introduction, but the basic reason for including community colleges in here in the first place was that community colleges hire some of the same people or have positions for some of the same people that K-12 schools do and they face the same market conditions in terms of hiring those. So the growth rate was to allow them...the increase in the growth rate, rather, was to allow them to increase teachers' salaries and be competitive with other markets and also the public schools. I think that still is a valid need, but making it fiscally sound I think is very important also, and so my recommendation to you with this amendment is that that part of the program drop out and then that makes this a consistent fiscal package. The proposed revenue matches with the proposed expenses. So, with that, I would...I would be happy to try to answer any questions and urge your support for this amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. You've heard the opening on AM1571 to the committee amendments to LB 305. Open for discussion on that amendment. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. President, members, Senator Raikes, there's one thing I'm not following and I'd like to ask a question about the Cash Reserve...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...transfer,...